



Orthopaedic Associates

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April 13, 2015

Texas State Representative, Myra Crownover
District 64
Room 1N.10
PO Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

Dear Rep. Crownover,

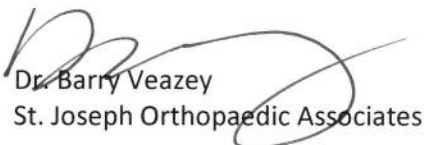
The purpose of this letter is to provide feedback specific to HB2602 and urge you to support this bill to amend previous legislation passed in 2013 specific to physician delegation of Schedule II prescribing and ordering upon discharge from the hospital setting to be filled in a community hospital.

As an orthopedic surgeon practicing at St Joseph Regional Health Center, we operate on patients referred from our Level 2 trauma center, three additional critical access hospitals, one acute care rural hospital, and 22 clinics covering a seven county area. We have strived to provide a level of orthopedic care that has reached a level of national recognition and maintain a robust Joint University (specialty care for post-operative knee and hip replacement surgeries) program.

We seek to provide our care in the most efficient and effective way to achieve outcomes by use of non-physician providers (NPs and PAs). We rely on our non-physician providers to leverage their skill set in coordinating the discharge process including the prescribing and ordering of evidence based pain medication which in this case is the use Hydrocodone. They are tasked not only with this but also on the counseling and discharge education that is critical to success upon discharge and preventing return visits to the ER and/or office. As reimbursement is "bundled" this presents an issue for us to provide excellent care.

The recent move of Hydrocodone to schedule 2 and the TMB oversight of the process has caused a challenge to our care delivery process. We are asking you to please vote YES on this bill and support the continued excellent care that we strive to provide through both our orthopedic surgeon and PA practitioners.

Sincerely,


Dr. Barry Veazey
St. Joseph Orthopaedic Associates